

FAME IS A SWEET TOOTH... FOR MICE

For June Chadwick, who plays the evil, rat-eating Lydia in V, life has taken off since she left England

SEXY blonde actress June Chadwick looks the very picture of a sweet English rose.

But there's nothing sweet about the way this 32-year-old beauty has found fame and fortune more than 12,000 km away from her homeland.

June, who now lives in Los Angeles, has become one of the hottest new stars on American TV and more recently here — by eating mice and rats in front of millions of horrified viewers.

But don't complain about animal cruelty just yet!

June assured viewers that the rats are really made of chocolate and are cleverly designed by television artists to look lifelike.

June plays the evil alien Lydia in a hot new TV series V. It is based on two highly successful mini-series, V and V — The Final Conflict.

The series is one of the most ambitious and expensive TV projects ever undertaken in Hollywood, costing \$1 million an episode.

Lydia is a wicked lizard commander from outer space who is cunningly disguised as a sultry human.

June isn't bothered, even though she's the girl viewers most love to hate these days.

"If the audience hates me, I know I've done a good job," she told me. "But I hope they're not loathing June Chadwick, just Lydia."

"Playing villainesses is more challenging than good-girl roles because bad girls tend to be stronger. Look at Dynasty's Joan Collins, Knots Landing's Donna Mills and Falcon Crest's Jane Wyman — they certainly make more of an impression."

June was a virtually unknown actress when she left England five years ago. She had worked steadily in repertory theatre but had never made it to the big time.

But since arriving in the United States she's made guest appearances on several top television shows, including Magnum PI, had a leading role in the film This Is Spinal Tap and has now landed the top job in the popular V series.

"When I came to America there was a negative attitude towards having a British accent. People loved it but it was hard to find work because they didn't want to cast anyone sounding English," she said.

"But that's all changed now. Things started to turn around with the success of Brideshead Revisited and Chariots Of Fire."

"The English have a lot of innuendoes in their voice and in playing a bitchy role you can use that very effectively."

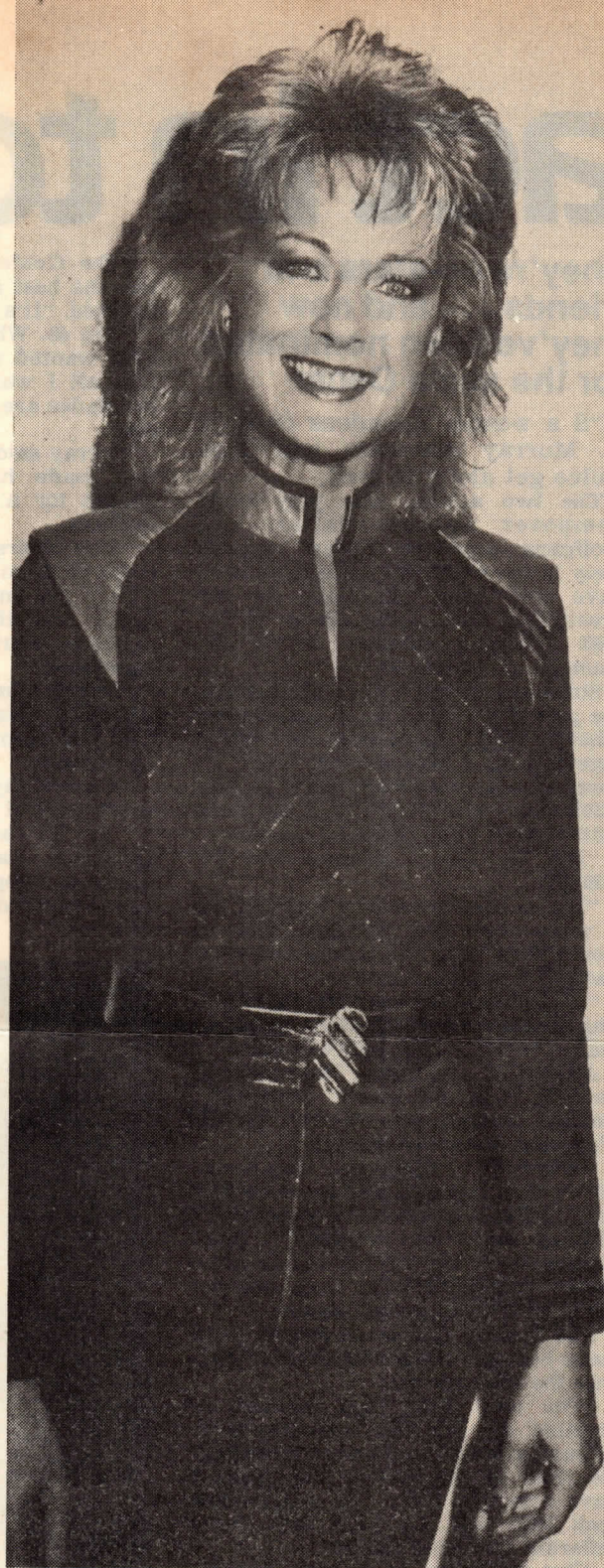
June recalled one of her first guest appearances.

"I'd only been in Hollywood for a little while and I was sent out to Hawaii to appear in an episode of Magnum. I'd come over from England and all of a sudden I found myself lying on a sun-drenched beach a few yards from Tom Selleck."

"I thought to myself: 'This is the life.'"

June spends her time between America and England and hopes very much to do a production there again as soon as her busy schedule permits.

"I love it in America and it's been



very good to me but I have all my family and a lot of friends back home so it's very nice to spend time there with them too," said June, who still owns a house in Hampstead, London.

June is divorced from a London publisher but the two are still on good terms.

"We just got to a point where we wanted to go in different directions. If you care for someone that doesn't mean you have to fall out completely and feel badly about that person," she said.

— Ian Markham-Smith